Senate Unit To Interview Mrs. Beard

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By Sanford J. Ungar
Washington Post Staff Writer

A seven-man Senate subcommittee decided yesterday to fly to Denver this weekend to interrogate Dita D. Beard, Washington lobbyist for the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., in her hospital room there.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), in the meantime, suspended further hearings into the ITT case until after the questioning of Mrs. Beard.

Republicans on the Judiciary Committee had threatened to boycott any sessions of the ITT hearings with other witnesses, in the belief that Mrs. Beard's testimony may substantially cool off the controversy.

Mrs. Beard's doctors agreed to permit the senators to question her for a total of nine hours, in 90-minute morning and afternoon sessions Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The lobbyist, allegedly the author of a memorandum linking the Justice Department's settlement of three antitrust cases against ITT to the company's contribution of at least $200,000 to the Republican National Convention, could later be called for further testimony if her heart condition improves, committee sources said.

Senate GOP sources said yesterday they expect Mrs. Beard to substantiate her claim in a sworn statement last Friday that the ITT memorandum, published by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson three weeks ago, is a "forgey" and a "hoax."

Eastland said yesterday that he had turned over to the FBI both the original memo published by Anderson and another one produced by ITT Monday night for a comparison and a check of their authenticity.

Democrats on the Judiciary Committee yesterday rejected ITT's contention that the newly discovered Beard memo was the only "genuine" one and that it "flatly contradicts" the allegations of a "deal" involving the antitrust settle-

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nent and the convention contribution.

They pointed out that the new memo seemed to be merely a job description, in which Mrs. Beard mentioned not only the GOP convention in San Diego but also her contacts with the Defense Department, congressmen and state governors.

A third memo by Mrs. Beard was injected into the continuing furor over the ITT case when Susan B. Lichtman, Mrs. Beard's secretary for six weeks last summer, insisted, in a telephone interview from Toronto, that the general memo newly discovered and reported Monday by ITT was not the one she referred to in an affidavit submitted to the Judiciary Committee.

Mrs. Lichtman said that she recalled typing a memo for Mrs. Beard which was not the one published by Anderson, but which "in a general sense" included some of the names and sentences in the memo published by Anderson.

The parts Mrs. Lichtman said she remembered included a suggestion that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell knew of the ITT commitment to the GOP convention as early as last June.

Mitchell has testified that to this day he is still unaware of how the Republican National Committee intends to finance the San Diego convention.

Mrs. Lichtman said she also remembered "generally" the final sentence of the Beard memo as published by Anderson: "Please destroy this, huh?"

ITT contends that had William R. Merriam, chief of the company's Washington office, ever received such a memo from Mrs. Beard, he would have put a copy in the files despite the request to destroy it.

ITT officials have testified that after learning that Anderson had a document purportedly from the company's files, they fed "many sacks" of documents through a shredding machine.

Mrs. Lichtman, in the telephone interview, also contradicted earlier testimony from several witnesses that Mrs. Beard was sometimes "irrational" and drank excessively.

"In the time I worked for her," said Mrs. Lichtman, now a nursery school supervisor in Toronto, "I never saw her irrational or drunk or anything of the sort. She was certainly tired sometimes, but that was understandable."

The former temporary ITT secretary said she would be willing to testify if called by the Judiciary Committee.

There were these other developments in the ITT case:

• It was revealed that Mrs. Beard was arrested in San Diego last Aug. 21 on a drunk driving charge and bailed out of the county jail there by the president of an advertising agency which listed Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.) as a vice president.

Court records in San Diego indicated that Mrs. Beard was later fined $200 on a reduced charge of reckless driving.

• Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III (D-Ill.) became the third member of the Senate to declare his opposition to confirmation of Richard G. Kleindienst at Attorney General.

Senate floor action on the Kleindienst nomination has been indefinitely postponed because of the ITT hearings, originally convened at the Cabinet nominee's request.

• The Justice Department again delayed its promised comment on charges by Life magazine that close associates of President Nixon had intervened to block federal criminal prosecutions in San Diego and that Kleindienst had found no wrongdoing after an investigation of the incidents.

• The Boston Globe reported that William Middendorf, U.S. ambssador to the Netherlands, was a partner in the investment firm that received $1 million for helping to bring about the 1968 merger of ITT with the Hartford Fire Insurance Co. Middendorf was treasurer of the Republican Party at the time.

• The osteopathic physicians caring for Mrs. Beard in Denver said that her condition was substantially improved, but that she could not be discharged until after her testimony to the visiting Senate subcommittee.